



Portrait of an Oak Park 8th Grade Graduate and Out-of-School Learning

SY25 GOAL AREA 4:
We Learn Everywhere

Feb. 11, 2025
D97 Board of Education Meeting



2024-25 District 97 Transformation Goals

We Learn, Lead and Celebrate Together

Our District Culture
ALL Employee Professional Learning

We Design for ALL

Elementary Core Instruction Foundations
Middle School Redesign

We Align Resources

Master Facilities Plan
Comprehensive Safety Plan

We Learn Everywhere

Portrait of an Oak Park 8th Grade Graduate
Early Childhood Education



Meet the Portrait Implementation Team

2024-25

***Dr. Eboney Lofton (Co-Lead)**
Chief Learning Innovation Officer

***Amanda Siegfried (Co-Lead)**
Senior Director of Communications and Engagement

Dr. Tawanda Lawrence
Senior Director of Curriculum and Instruction

Donna Middleton
Senior Director of Student Services

Dr. Anna Colaner
Senior Director of Data Analytics and Research



Tonight's Presentation

February 11, 2025

01 **OUR PORTRAIT STORY**

02 **PORTRAIT IMPLEMENTATION
UPDATES**

03 **NEXT STEPS**

Our Portrait Story

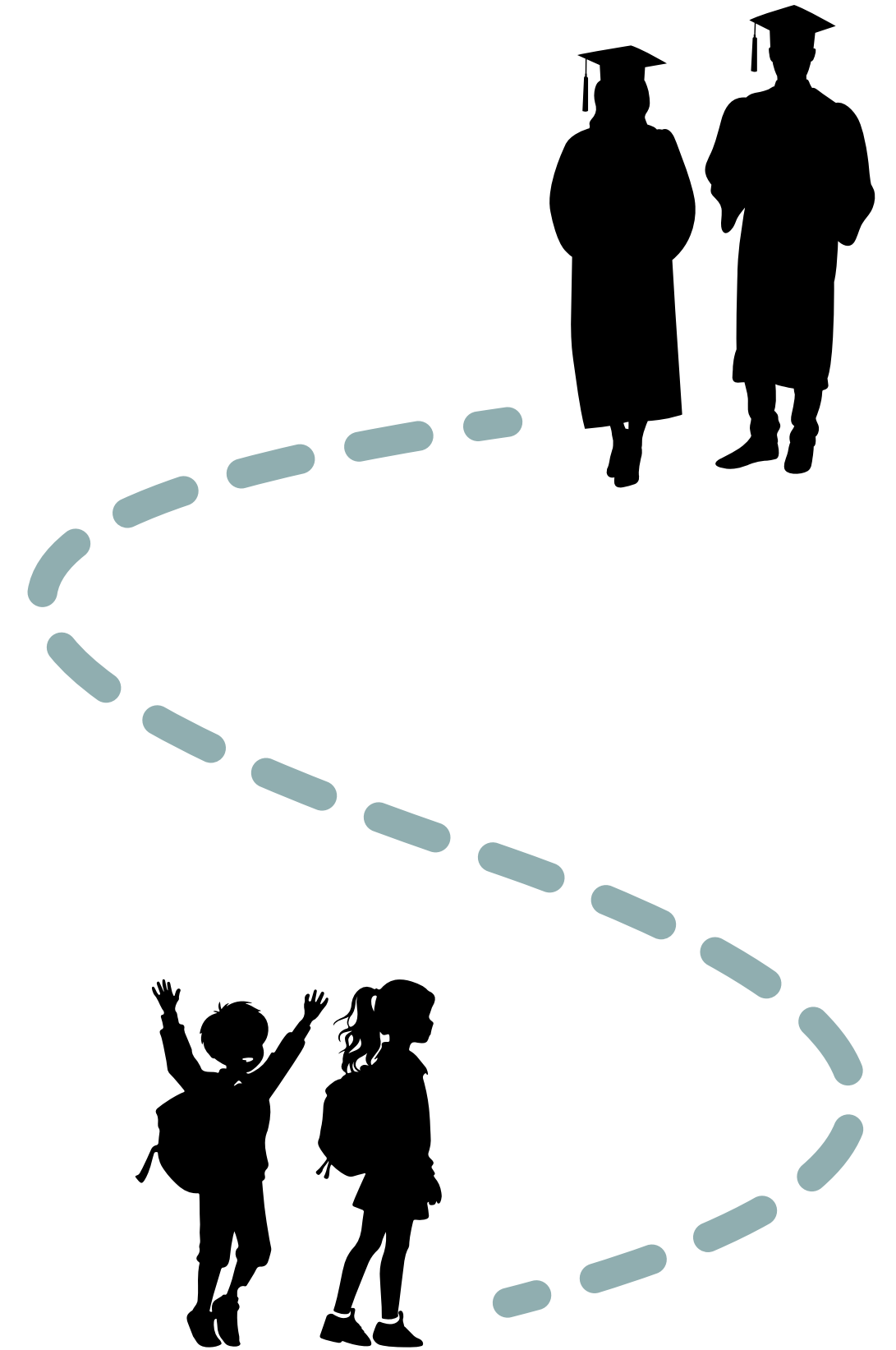




What is the Portrait?

The Portrait of an Oak Park 8th Grade Graduate is the collective vision that our community has for all District 97 graduates.

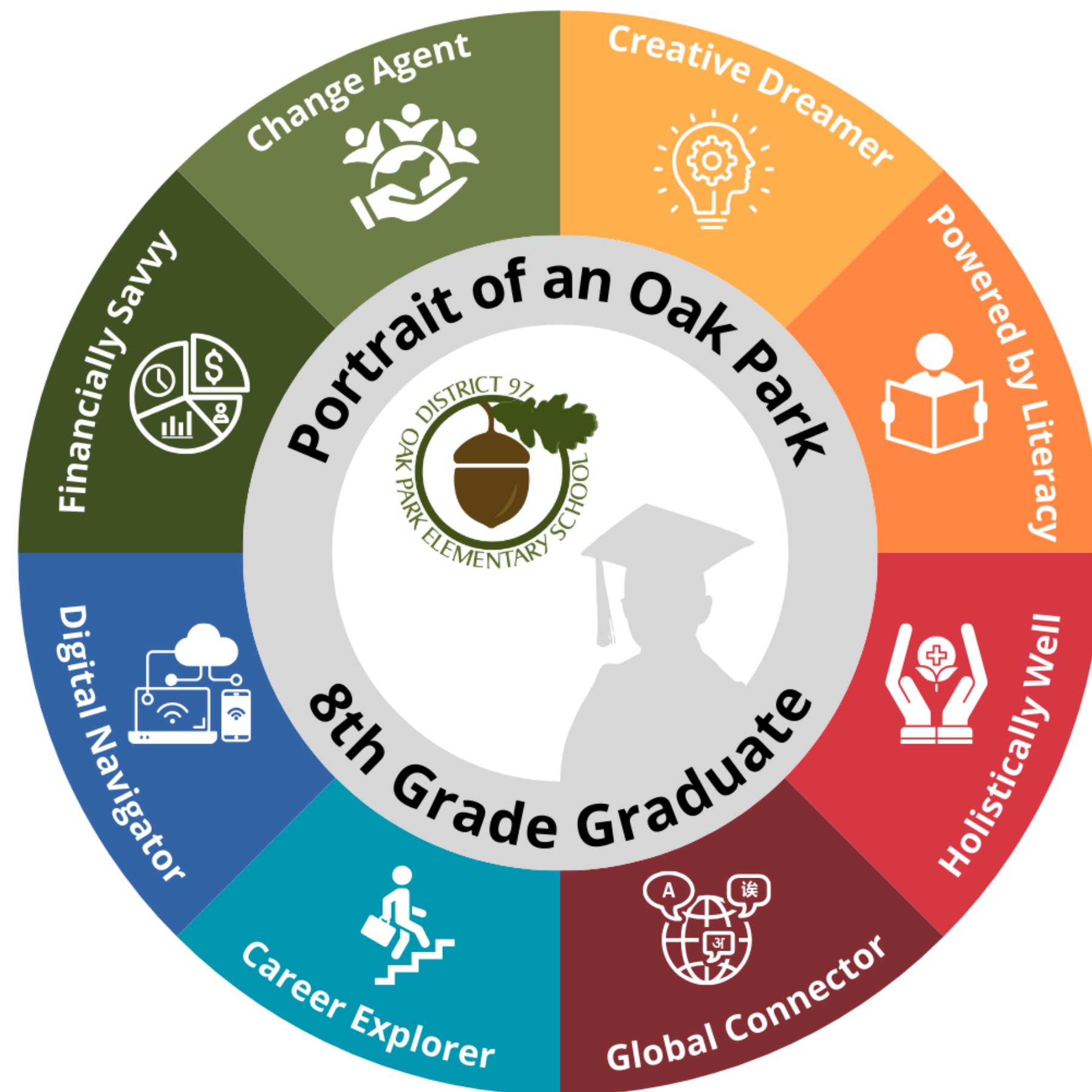
This vision will be rooted in core competencies tied to learning standards and experiences that are critical to student success in college, career and beyond.





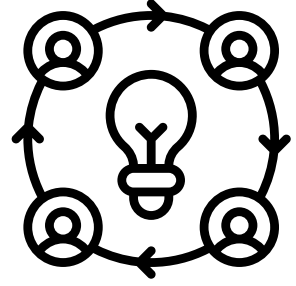
Our Portrait

The following 8 dimensions represent the culmination of this community engagement process. Each word was carefully chosen by the Teacher Design Team to reflect both their educational expertise and the priorities and preferences of community members.





Portrait Development



Community Visioning

FOCUS

Robust engagement to develop the Portrait, prioritizing the voices of affinity groups to ensure equitable representation

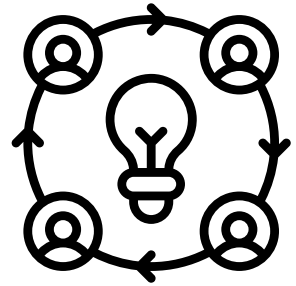
OUTCOME

Competency-based Portrait that reflects the vision and values of the Oak Park community

2023-24



Portrait Development



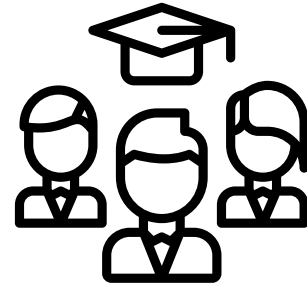
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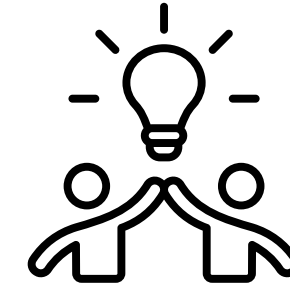
Aligning Voices and Vision to Learning Standards

FOCUS

Digging deep with youth to understand their lived experiences; aligning Portrait dimensions to learning standards

OUTCOME

Alignment between defined standards and community vision; areas of immediate focus based on student feedback



Cross-Agency Partnership: *"We Learn Everywhere"*

FOCUS

Piloting the Portrait as a community framework for youth development and learning everywhere

EXAMPLES

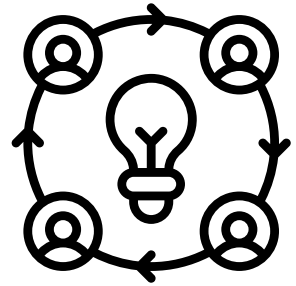
Collaboration with community partners (e.g., Oak Park Education Foundation, Park District of Oak Park)

2023-24

2024-25



Portrait Development



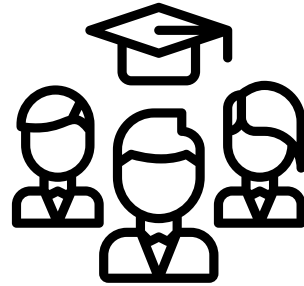
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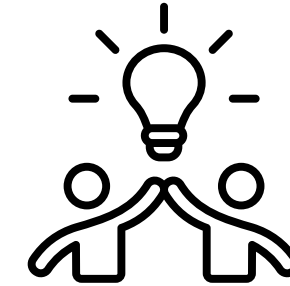
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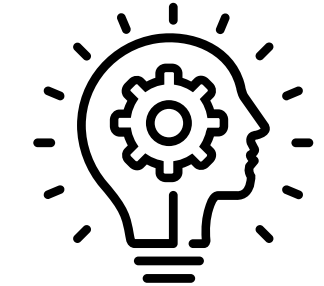
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EXAMPLES

Collaboration with community partners (e.g., Oak Park Education Foundation, Park District of Oak Park)



Innovation Incubator (Future Work)

FOCUS

Future-oriented strategies to expand the impact of the Portrait framework (e.g., Portrait projects, Youth Advisory Council, family learning design)

2023-24

2024-25

2025-26

Aligning Voices and Vision to Learning Standards





New SY25 Teacher Leader Role

We are excited to be working this year with our new Portrait Early Learning Engagement Teacher Leaders. Together, we aim to:

- Design **Portrait-aligned learning experiences** that support existing work while serving as a springboard for innovation aligned to the Portrait dimensions.
- Design **early learning experiences aligned to the Portrait** that serve to prepare students entering the district for a rich learning experience.
- Meet as a district-wide team for **continued professional learning** around the dimensions while preparing to share learning with students, community members, community organizations, etc.
- Support **community engagement efforts** aligned to the Portrait.
- Develop **draft Portrait metrics** for use with the district's early learning and community partners.



Listening Sessions with Students

As part of our work with the Portrait Early Learning Engagement Teacher Leaders, we conducted several listening sessions with middle school students in December 2024 to learn more about their experiences in District 97.

What We Heard

1

Connections with Peers

Students highlighted the importance of building strong, positive relationships with their classmates.

2

Relationships with Teachers

Some students shared the importance of having teachers of color, reflecting their identities and experiences, to foster a sense of belonging and representation.

3

Supportive Transitions

Students identified a need for better support during transitions between grade levels and school environments.

4

Social Emotional Learning (SEL Support)

Students expressed need for more supports/initiatives to help them navigate challenges and experiences.

Alignment with the Portrait



The feedback from students underscores the importance of helping them develop skills to be *Holistically Well*.



What is a standard?

Standards establish expectations for what all students should *know and be able to do* in each subject at each grade.



Standards Alignment

What does it mean to have a “standards-aligned Portrait”?

Our Portrait of a Graduate will identify **learning standards and experiences** that are critical to future student success.

Each dimension (core area) of our Portrait will be connected to the **Illinois Learning Standards**.



STANDARDS AND INSTRUCTION STANDARDS AND COURSES

The Illinois Learning Standards establish expectations for what all students should know and be able to do in each subject at each grade. The standards emphasize depth over breadth, building upon key concepts as students advance. The standards promote student-driven learning and the application of knowledge to real world situations to help students develop deep conceptual understanding. Intentionally rigorous, the Illinois Learning Standards prepare students for the challenges of college and career.

- Unfinished Learning Communities Of Practice 📅 - 01/20/2021
- Illinois Instructional Mandates (Formerly Mandated Units of Study) 📅 - 10/23/2023

ILLINOIS LEARNING STANDARDS

- | | |
|--|---|
| Computer Science | Mathematics |
| Driver Education | Physical Development and Health |
| Early Learning and Development | Science |
| English Language Arts | Sexual Health Education |
| English Language Learning / Bilingual Education <ul style="list-style-type: none">◦ English Language Development (2020)◦ Spanish Language Development (2013)◦ Spanish Language Arts (2021) | Social and Emotional Learning <ul style="list-style-type: none">◦ Social and Emotional Learning - Spanish |
| Fine Arts <ul style="list-style-type: none">◦ Dance◦ Media Arts◦ Music◦ Theatre◦ Visual Arts | World Languages <ul style="list-style-type: none">◦ ACTFL Standards (2015)◦ Spanish Language Arts (2021) |



DYNAMIC®
LEARNING MAPS

**SP
LC** **LEARNING
FOR JUSTICE**



A closer look....



Change Agent

Graduates will make a positive impact locally and globally through civic engagement and sustainability practices.

Because
we have no
other place to
live and Earth
is wonderfull
why not save it

Encourage
students to
participate
in their
community



A Closer Look...



Change Agent

	Example of a Standard
<u>Illinois Early Learning and Development Standards</u>	11.A.ECa: Express wonder and curiosity about their world by asking questions, solving problems, and designing things.



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<u>Dynamic Learning Maps Essential Elements</u>	Write to share information supported by details. a.Select a topic and write about it including one fact or detail.



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<u>International Society for Technology in Education (ISTE) Standards</u>	1.5.b - Students collect data or identify relevant data sets, use digital tools to analyze them and represent data in various ways to facilitate problem-solving and decision-making.



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<u>Illinois Social Emotional Learning Standards</u>	3c.6b.Plan and implement a project to improve your local community.
<u>Next Generation Science Standards</u>	3-LS4-4: Make a claim about the merit of a solution to a problem caused when the environment changes and the types of plants and animals that live there may change.*



A Closer Look...



Change Agent

Example of a Standard

Illinois Early Learning and Development Standards

11.A.ECa: Express wonder and curiosity about their world by asking questions, solving problems, and designing things.

Dynamic Learning Maps Essential Elements

Write to share information supported by details.
a.Select a topic and write about it including one fact or detail.

International Society for Technology in Education (ISTE) Standards

1.5.b - Students collect data or identify relevant data sets, use digital tools to analyze them and represent data in various ways to facilitate problem-solving and decision-making.

Illinois Social Emotional Learning Standards

3c.6b.Plan and implement a project to improve your local community.

Next Generation Science Standards

3-LS4-4: Make a claim about the merit of a solution to a problem caused when the environment changes and the types of plants and animals that live there may change.*

Learning for Justice Standards

20. I will work with my friends and family to make our school and community fair for everyone, and will work hard and cooperate in order to achieve our goals.

A Community Approach to Youth Development

“We Learn Everywhere”





Community Partnerships

We have been exploring opportunities to collaborate with partner agencies like the Oak Park Public Library, the Oak Park Education Foundation, and the Park District of Oak Park to bring our Portrait into the community.

park news and updates

Learning Happens Everywhere in Oak Park
In the Park District of Oak Park programs, in D97 classrooms, in homes, and beyond.

That's why we are thrilled to announce an exciting collaboration with D97 to bring their Portrait of an Oak Park 8th Grade Graduate to life through Park District programs and activities.

This spring and summer, we're aligning some of the school district's Portrait dimensions to the Park District's out-of-school programs for youth. For example, children interested in being a "Digital Navigator" might check out one of the programs in the CRC Esports Lounge, while those interested in being a "Creative Dreamer" can explore an art workshop or dance class. We are excited to see how your family will explore, learn, and grow this season.

To make it easier to explore these connections, we've created a dedicated webpage that links each dimension to specific programs. You can visit the page by scanning the QR code. Thank you for being part of our community's shared journey toward universal student success!



To learn more about the Portrait of an Oak Park 8th Grade Graduate, visit www.op97.org/ourportrait.

DISTRICT 97

'Creative Dreamers' Turn Ideas into Action!

Does your child love art, music, or dance? **Arts & Crafts programs** help them explore their imagination, collaborate with others, and bring ideas to life.

'Holistically Well' Students Thrive Inside and Out!

We want students to care for their physical, mental, and social well-being, while embracing their identities and valuing others. **Fitness, Wellness, and Sports programs** help kids stay active, build confidence, and foster teamwork.

'Change Agents' Make a Difference!

Does your child love nature and exploring the outdoors? **Nature & Adventure programs and Sustainability Workshops** teach them how to care for the planet and make a difference in their community.

8 © pdop.org

Oak Park Education Foundation
BASE Camp

1st / 2nd GRADE: 2025 BASE Camp Descriptions

STEAM Access Key

Use the key below to easily identify which aspects of Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics your BASE Camp will focus on.

STEAM at BASE Camp

STEAM Education is our hands-on, minds-on approach to learning that uses Science, Technology, Engineering, the Arts and Mathematics as access points for guiding camper curiosity, expression and critical thinking.

S SCIENCE	T TECHNOLOGY	E ENGINEERING	A ART	M MATH
Science: Encourages curiosity, observation, and experimentation, fostering an understanding of the natural world.	Technology: Involves the use of tools, software, and digital platforms to solve problems and enhance learning experiences.	Engineering: Promotes design thinking and problem-solving through hands-on projects and the engineering design process.	Arts: Incorporates creativity and expression through various artistic mediums, fostering a holistic approach to learning.	Mathematics: Provides the foundational skills for logical reasoning, quantitative analysis, and problem-solving.

****Following the STEAM graphics, please note the icons that represent District 97's Portrait dimensions to Oak Park out-of-school learning opportunities for youth.**

Aqua Lab (1st-2nd)
1-week session Water is all around us but how much do we actually know about it? Get ready to be astonished by all the amazing things water can do that you never knew were possible. We'll discover how water interacts with other liquids, experiment with what happens when different objects are dropped in water, and learn about how water moves through our world. We'll even use water to create beautiful works of art! *Content will be the same each session.*
Weeks 1, 2, 3 **STEAM**

Bead Mosaics (1st-2nd)
1-week session Ignite your creative mind by designing small projects in mosaic-styled patterns with fuse beading. Use a bead stencil to follow a specific pattern or make your own creations with this fun beading art. Make a pet, your favorite character, a creature, or a house into keychains, wall art, or jewelry. The fun is in thinking of different characters, objects, scenes, and color combinations and watching your projects come to life. *Content will be the same each session.*
Weeks 3, 4, 6 **STEAM**

Chess Mini-Masters (1st-2nd)
1-week session A mix of games and fun, your child will develop their chess skill by learning techniques and strategies to help them better understand the game and reinforce logical thinking and problem solving. They will participate in a variety of other activities that prompt kinesthetic learning and strategic thinking.
Weeks 5 & 6 **STEAM**

Chibi Creations (1st-2nd)
1-week session Who can resist these adorable characters with their big eyes, big heads, and big feelings? Learn the basics on how to create cute chibis with drawing and storyboarding, then turn your chibi loose in a 3-D world designed out of recycled materials. Work in teams with other creators to bring your characters to life in a 'zine' or video. *Content will be the same each session.*
Week 4 **STEAM**

1st / 2nd GRADE: 2025 BASE Camp Descriptions

OP/FYI A NEWSLETTER FROM THE VILLAGE OF OAK PARK
SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2024
VOLUME 36 · ISSUE 5



Fire Department hosting Open House

Oak Parkers of all ages with an interest in modern firefighting and emergency medical services should mark their calendars for Saturday, Oct. 12. That's when the Oak Park Fire Department will open its doors to the public for its annual open house. The event, held in conjunction with Fire Safety Month, is set for 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Central Fire Station, 100 N. Euclid Ave. In addition to touching the cool equipment essential to the mission of a modern fire department, the event also will include tours of the fire house, presentations about safety and fun handouts.

About the Fire Department. Always on call, the Fire Department maintains three shifts of 22 trained professionals ready to provide around-the-clock protection to residents. All Village firefighters also are paramedics, since delivering emergency medical services is an integral part of the Fire Department mission. In fact, about 60% of calls to the Fire Department are for medical emergencies. In 2023, Oak Park's firefighter/paramedics responded to more than 8,600 calls for fire and emergency medical services. For more information, visit www.oak-park.us/fire or email fire@oak-park.us.

Village accepting Housing Trust Fund applications

The Village recently established a Housing Trust Fund for the sole purpose of providing and preserving affordable housing opportunities in Oak Park. Village staff is available to discuss potential project ideas with applicants and answer questions about applying for these funds. Visit www.oak-park.us/HTF for more information and a link to the online application form. Questions can also be directed to the Neighborhood Services Department at housing@oak-park.us.

Village Hall to host early voting

Suburban Cook County voters can cast an early ballot for the 2024 Presidential Election seven days a week starting Oct. 21 through Nov. 4 at Village Hall, 123 Madison St. Hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. from Monday through Saturday and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Sundays. Village Hall also will offer grace-period registration during early voting hours for those individuals who missed the registration deadline. Valid identification is required to register during the grace period and a vote must be cast immediately after registration. A driver's license or picture ID is preferred, along with an additional item such as a lease or utility bill with the current address. Village Hall is not a polling place on Election Day, Nov. 5. More information is available by calling 708.358.5672 or emailing clerk@oak-park.us. Information such as Election Day polling sites by address is available at www.cookcountyclerk.com/elections. Additionally, the Oak Park Public Library has helpful information about civic engagement available at www.oppl.org/about/civic-engagement.

INSIDE:
LEAVE. BIN. BAG.
Comprehensive information about Fall Leaf Collection Program changes

Innovation Incubator (Future Work)





Summer Portrait Planning



D97 Senior Leadership Retreat - July 2024

The Portrait team was joined this summer by Lourdes Valdez, an intern from the Education Pioneers program. During her time with D97, Lourdes helped explore and design:

- A Portrait-aligned project-based learning pilot
- Opportunities for community partnerships to support student learning
- Digital tools for out-of-school learning that are accessible to all students
- A framework for a Youth Advisory Council



Possible Portrait Youth Advisory Council

- We have been incubating the idea of a new youth advisory council focused on continuous engagement and improvement of the Portrait. There are also other agency conversations taking place about a community-wide youth leadership structure.
- We welcome collaboration and always favor a cross-agency approach to the big things we're trying to do in Oak Park. Stay tuned!

DRAFT Youth Advisory Council Framework

1 - The Brief



Students internalize the Portrait Dimensions.

2 - Research



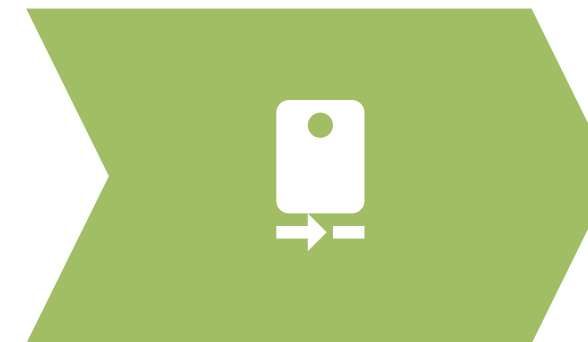
Students identify areas of growth in school and larger community

3 - Ideation



Students develop action plan and engage with members of the community

4 - Production



Students implement action plan through small service project / initiative

5 - Reflect



Students evaluate and reflect on the outcomes of their effort.



DISCUSSION

Questions

